

# THE GATEWAY

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## Homeless shelter raises ire among Strathcona residents

COSANNA PRESTON  
Associate News Editor

"Not in my backyard" was the reaction from some residents in Old Strathcona when they were informed a temporary homeless shelter would be located in their area.

The Out-of-the-Cold shelter began its second year in the Old Strathcona area on 22 December. Having opened at the Strathcona Baptist church, the homeless shelter was not met with strong resistance until residents were notified it would be moving to the Knox-Metropolitan United Church (KMU) on 109 Street.

The primary concern raised Old Strathcona residents was the location of a homeless shelter within a community of families, students, and seniors.

"My argument has always been that there are appropriate and inappropriate locations for homeless shelters. The middle of a residential area that is close to schools is inappropriate. Shelters must be located where there is the least impact to the community," said Corinne Lillo, a resident who lives and works in the area and was one of two people who filed an appeal against the shelter's permit.

Ann Lea, one of the head organizers of the shelter, was not surprised to hear the criticism, but thought the sentiments were overblown.

She emphasized that the shelter is necessary for the increasing number of homeless people in the Whyte Avenue area, and thought it unfortunate that it was being met with such hostility.

"It is reasonable to have a little extra concern when there are more homeless people in the neighbourhood. However, the concerns expressed have been stronger than necessary. My thought is that these people have never encountered homeless people on a one-on-one basis. They just fear the shelter because it is unknown," said Lea.

**"My argument has always been that there are appropriate and inappropriate locations for homeless shelters. The middle of a residential area that is close to schools is inappropriate."**

CORINNE LILLO,  
OLD STRATHCONA RESIDENT

The shelter was first open from February to April 2003 in the Strathcona Baptist Church and the Trinity Lutheran Church. It was funded by the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund (EHTF), the Hope Mission, and the Herb Jamieson Centre, an emergency shelter for men.

This year, the groups formed a non-profit organization called Old Strathcona Out-of-the-Cold Winter Emergency Shelter Society, and gained the support of ten area churches.

PLEASE SEE SHELTER • PAGE 2



COSANNA PRESTON

**A PLACE TO KEEP WARM, OR A HAVEN FOR CRIME?** The homeless shelter in the Knox-Metropolitan United Church.



JESSE WHITEHEAD

**SO HARDCORE** Benjamin Kowalewicz of Billy Talent at the Iron Horse Tuesday.



**14 Señor Backstrom** habla español. Señor Backstrom likes dressing like Santa Claus. Señor Backstrom went to Guatemala. Señor Backstrom wrote about all these things. Olé!

### Inside

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### Outside

**Thursday** Sunny, whispers sweet nothings to horses; High -5, no low again  
**Friday** Sun and cloud, spirits our hearts away with suburban teen angst; High -8, Low -7  
**Saturday** Flurries, karaoke love songs with older man; High -3, Low -12  
**Sunday** Sunny, webs entire Gateway staff in secret wedding; High -1, Low -14  
Source: Environment Canada



### From the archives

Tuition at the U of A was increased by the maximum amount allowable under provincial law for the third consecutive year. The 13.1 per cent increase meant full-time students could expect to pay \$20.7 for the 1993/94 school year. At the time, tuition could not exceed 20 per cent of a university's operating budget. Registrar Brian Sizer said tuition would likely hit the maximum by 1998. SU President Randy Boissonneault said he didn't know where students would get the money to pay for the increase. How times have changed.

**1993**

### Gah!

Midterm Next week! Bad! Because we should be studying and you shouldn't be distracting yourself with newspapers, there will be no Gateway on Tuesday. Godspeed my studious friends.



**18** Let's face it, the Oilers aren't doing so hot this season. Who's to blame? In today's point-counterpoint, it's coach Craig MacLeish. Should we fire the horse's ass or not?

## Students march on Leg in national day of action for postsecondary education

ALLIE SMYTH  
News Writer

Education shouldn't cost you everything, according to a small but enthusiastic group of approximately 40 students and onlookers protesting at the Legislature Wednesday as part of a National Day of Action for postsecondary education.

Organizers said the focus of the event was accessibility, escalating student debt problems, and the issue of decreasing quality of education presently faced by Alberta's students. The rally was affiliated with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), who promoted similar events across Canada.

"Today, students across the country will be holding events and taking to the streets to try to spread the message about the crisis that the postsecondary education system is currently facing," said University of Alberta law

student Mike Hudema. "Our message is that the government needs to fund education."

This feeling was shared by many of the people present at the rally.

**"Tuition is too high. I'm starving, my kids are hungry, my partner just lost his job, and no one listens."**

JENIKA WATSON,  
U OF A EDUCATION STUDENT

"Tuition is too high. I'm starving, my kids are hungry, my partner just lost his job, and no one listens," said education student Jenika Watson. "The government should look at the priorities of the population. They don't represent us. We want an education and it shouldn't be so difficult in

this day and age."

Daniel Nielson, a recent U of A graduate and currently unemployed teacher, agreed, saying he believes the government needs to consider more funds for education and less tax cuts for corporations.

"What I don't understand is, when Alberta has such a big surplus, why they aren't funding programs like education?" asked Nielson.

"We have the potential to have the best education system, so why don't we?"

Onlooker Glenys Haskins stopped at the rally on her way home after work.

"Tuition is always a concern. What is stopping me from going back right now is my initial student loan," said Haskins, who suggested the government needs to recognize the actual costs that students face today while trying to get an education.

PLEASE SEE REALLY • PAGE 2

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## colophon

The Gateway is created using Apple Macintosh computers, Hewlett-Packard Scanjet 3c and iMac. Adobe Photoshop is used for layout. Adobe InDesign is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of Frutiger, Helvetica, and Arial. The Gateway's names of choice are CTV and Google.

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## Shelter offers alternative to crowded downtown spaces

SHELTER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While all the churches are involved in the organizing, planning, and support of the shelter, the four largest churches in the group are housing it. The shelter must be housed in more than one location, as the city does not allow shelters to remain in one spot for more than seven weeks. The location of the area is not zoned for such organizations.

It was decided that each church would house the shelter for five weeks until the end of April. KMU, however, is the only church that has had its participation contested.

The angered residents seem to be most upset by the fact that they were not consulted in the process. Lillo notes that the first she heard of the shelter was when she received notice from the city that the permit had been approved.

"There has been a complete lack of concern shown by the city and the organizers of this program toward the residents and the business owners in this area. We were not consulted as to the viability of opening homeless shelters in Old Strathcona," said Lillo.

Lillo was not the only resident upset with the placement. Steve Young, who filed the first appeal and is a constable with the Edmonton Police Service, was equally displeased.

"At the very least, there should be community input. If you involve people, then the product is something you can live with. But the city and organization didn't do that. It was unilaterally approved," said Young.

Debate over location is not new to homeless shelters, and it frustrates Eile Gibson, an employee of the Bissell Centre, an inner-city crisis and support centre. She was pleased to learn of the homeless shelter near Whyte Avenue, saying there was a need to expand beyond the downtown core.

"It is important so that people don't have to walk from one end of town to the other to find shelter for the night," said Gibson.

"It's this 'nimby' thing, not in my backyard. People want it to be somewhere else. They don't want it to affect

their lifestyle, their property values, et cetera, et cetera."

The guests of the shelter are placed with the KMU location. Steve Nolting, one of the many homeless people making use of the shelter, said the problem with downtown was that it is too full, too far away, and there are simply too many people on the street. "I volunteered at the youth shelter once in a while a long time ago, and half of them don't even know where to go when they turn 18. There are hardly any places like this. There should be more. There is something in your belly and a nice warm place to stay. You won't freeze to death," said Nolting.

**"It's this 'nimby' thing, not in my backyard. People want it to be somewhere else."**ELE GIBSON,  
BISSILL CENTRE EMPLOYEE

But Young and Lillo think otherwise. They are concerned for the safety and quality of their neighbourhood. Young says there has been an increase in fighting, vagrancy, panhandling, and vandalism since the shelter first opened in December. Though he does acknowledge the acts cannot be positively connected to the shelter guests, he suggests the fear imposed on the community is valid.

"There is a fear of crime when embedding a shelter in an area. People are changing their lifestyle because they are scared to go out at night. This isn't a quality of life you would wish on anyone, to be scared in your own neighbourhood."

In the end, despite complaints, the shelter will continue to run in the area until the end of April. The proponents and opponents agree the homeless need assistance, but the argument still comes down to the weighing of community safety against the necessity of shelter in a cold winter.

## Gov't maintains it is working hard to ensure affordability

RALLY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I think that they have to realize it really is a vicious circle. They want educated people, they encourage us to go to school, but they don't really help out with it."

Joseph Vanderstoop, media relations spokesperson with Alberta Learning, sympathized but remained assertive that the government was working hard with postsecondary institutions to ensure that education is affordable for all Albertans. She said the government is working on developing and maintaining the grants, scholarships, bursaries and loan relief programs already in place.

"The government is working to ensure the postsecondary education system continues to grow to meet the needs of students now and in the future," said Vanderstoop. "What's

really important to remember is our tuition fees are comparable within Canada and that paying for an education is the best investment you can make for your future."

**"I think that they have to realize it really is a vicious circle. They want educated people, they encourage us to go to school, but they don't really help out with it."**GLENYS HASKINS,  
RALLY ONLOOKER

C'MOOOON! Law student Mike Hudema at Wednesday's tuition rally.

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## STREETERS

Compiled and photographed  
by Ross Moroz and David Zeitlin

SU election season is just around the corner, and if this year is anything like previous years, voter turnout may remain below 20 per cent.

Do you plan on voting in the upcoming SU elections?



Fraser Betkowski  
Science I

I haven't had the opportunity to vote yet, but I definitely will vote when I get the chance. I want to avoid being apathetic, even though apathy seems really popular. I'd like to think I have something to say.



Adrienne van  
der Zalm  
Kinesiology IV

No, I don't vote. I don't really care enough to. It doesn't seem like the people who are on the SU really make much of a difference. I have voted provincially and federally, but I didn't research my vote at all that well.



Kristen Hagg  
Kinesiology III

No I don't. I generally don't know when the elections are—I don't really pay attention. I don't bother taking the time, I guess. I don't really know who I'm voting for, so I don't really want to vote.



Nathan Lemphers  
Conservation  
Biology IV

Yes, I vote, because I believe even the little guy can make a difference. To get information about the candidates I try to read the Gateway, but it's not always the best.

## Education an important part of healthcare, says minister

KRISTINE OWRAM  
News Editor

Alberta Health Minister Gary Mar spoke about the sustainability of healthcare and its potential effects on education to a large crowd on campus yesterday.

As part of the Speak Out series, Mar addressed the concerns of the students and other interested parties present.

He opened the interactive talk with a look at how he perceives the relationship between education and healthcare.

"The promotion of wellness will be the only way healthcare will be sustainable into the future," he said, later explaining that initiatives like the province-wide tobacco reduction strategy in conjunction with the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC) and the government's "Healthy U" media campaign are part of this larger goal.

Mar also discussed the tradeoff necessary when a government decides to spend a large portion of its income on healthcare.

"There is a tradeoff between taking the present resources we have, our present prosperity, and spending it on present consumption, that being healthcare," he said. "I'm of the view that it makes more sense to invest our present prosperity into the growth of the future prosperity of the province, and that's education."

Mar, who has also served as Learning Minister and Environment Minister in his eleven years with the provincial government, described the problem of healthcare sustainability as "the remorselessness of arithmetic."

Healthcare costs are growing at a rate of eight to ten per cent a year across Canada, and government revenues are growing at a rate of two to three per cent a year, said Mar. "The public is demanding we spend money on healthcare, and that's the reason expenditures are growing so much every year," he explained. "But you cannot have growth and expenditures in one department growing at twice the rate as your income."

This is where the government's public education plan comes in. Citing Ireland, Singapore, and Austin, Texas as examples of places that have successfully improved their economies through education of the public, Mar

said education is the most important investment a government can make to ensure future prosperity.

"The reality is that 1000 Albertans will be diagnosed with type two diabetes this month. Type two diabetes is the leading cause of blindness in Canada, the leading cause of amputations, and one of the leading causes of overall death rates," he said. "This can be avoided with proper nutrition and exercise, and I think that investments in educating people about how to take care of themselves properly will ultimately affect healthcare and the overall economic prosperity of this country."

"I'm of the view that it makes more sense to invest our present prosperity into the growth of the future prosperity of the province, and that's education."

GARY MAR,  
ALBERTA HEALTH MINISTER

Many present were concerned about the accountability of private corporations as they step into the roles of healthcare providers in Alberta. Mar stated he doesn't believe this is cause for concern.

"In my view, the important issue is if a place has the people, skills, and equipment to diagnose me and help me get well. For me it's about the quality of the service provided, not about how that service is being delivered."

When an audience member contested that the will of the people was not being maintained, Mar replied that partial privatization was in the best interests of Alberta's citizens.

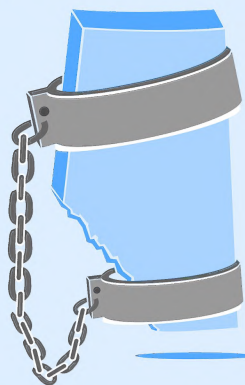
"I know for a fact that without the support of the majority of people, these initiatives will never work. But the stark reality is there won't be any money available for education, including postsecondary, if we don't come to grips with this," he said. "You're right, the will of the people is important, but I think if you'd spent as much time looking at the numbers as I have, you'd agree with me."



DEFENDING HEALTHCARE Health Minister Gary Mar was on campus Tuesday.



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# U of A printmaking: from 'grassroots' to a 'centre of excellence' in 30 years

CATLIN CRAWSHAW  
Associate News Editor

Blending 500-year-old printing techniques with modern digital technologies, the U of A printmaking program continues to draw international esteem from the art world.

In fact, the program has been dubbed a "centre of excellence" by the U of A for its globally recognized quality—an honour given to only six areas of study at the University, according to art and design department chair Jetske Sysbema.

Faculty members and students alike have had numerous opportunities to show their work abroad, and have received international honours. But this success is hardly a new phenomenon, according to professor and artist Liz Ingram.

"Over the last 30 years, the program has developed from the grassroots stage into a very high profile international centre for printmaking. It's not something that happened just because of a certain technology or a certain thing that happened over one or two years; I think it's been a very slow process of building," she explained.

Ingram came to the U of A from York University in Toronto in the early 1970s to pursue graduate school in fine arts. At this time, the printmaking program was just beginning to become the

renowned program it is today.

"In the early '70s, Edmonton certainly felt like a frontier place in that respect. Not that we were chopping wood to build our log cabins, but frontier in the sense of culture," Ingram said.

"Growing here was the feeling that we can do anything. You had the sense that you could build things yourself, that you could build things from scratch. Whereas, in some more established areas, you might not have that same feeling and desire."

Ingram's works are currently being shown in numerous international locations, including Italy, Brazil, Slovenia and Portland, Oregon, as well as locally at the Edmonton Art Gallery. She has received numerous grants and awards throughout her career, including an honourable mention at the Great Printmaking Competition in 1999, and the Diploma Award at the 1998 Tallinn International Print Triennial in 1998.

Like Ingram, U of A artist and professor Sean Caulfield has received international attention for his work. Caulfield's prints have been shown in many places, including China, the US and Japan.

Caulfield is also a Canada Research Chair, and in May of last year he was appointed to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The SSHRC is a govern-

ment council that has traditionally supported university research in the social sciences, humanities, education and management. Recently, fine art was added to this list of disciplines as part of a five-year pilot program.

"This is partly why I was chosen to sit on the council. And I think it speaks to the fact that research in fine art, whether visual art or drama or music, is in fact research and it should be treated in the same way as any other research in a university," said Caulfield.

While the program's reputation has been steadily building over the years, funding increases are relatively new for the program. According to Caulfield, this fits within a larger trend to better fund the social sciences in recent years.

"I think governments and people are becoming aware that the problems of society partly need technical solutions, but they also need solutions that only come from the arts. You're not going to deal with middle eastern relations, for example, through technology; you're going to do it through political science, through humanities, and fine arts is in that mix. It needs to be in that mix," Caulfield stated.

"I also think that people are recognizing the value of fine art for its own sake. A society without fine arts is barbaric. We need it to live full lives and to understand ourselves."



A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE Printmaking professor and artist Liz Ingram shows how it all goes down.

WILF CHEN

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# OPINION

## The media cannot tell you how to think

JOURNALISTS ARE A COMPLACENT LOT.

If you don't believe me, go to a media scrum sometime and watch how many reporters take what they're told without question, turn the story around in half an hour, and still make it home in time for dinner. Oftentimes reporters don't even bother researching an issue, and therefore inevitably come across as uninformed and glib in their work.

Of course, this isn't true for everyone. CBC chief reporter Peter Mansbridge's probing interview with Paul Martin in December showed Canadians what we're missing in many other aspects of our media. His impressive knowledge of the issues and interest in what our new Prime Minister had to say showed an obvious passion for his work, and this is something that is sorely missing in other Canadian news sources.

When I was at the national Canadian University Press conference in St. John's, Newfoundland recently, CBC Washington correspondent Neil Macdonald told the 200 student journalists present much the same thing.

Never have I seen a Western press corps so anxious to please authority, so prepared to pander to popular prejudices, so beholden to big business, and so seemingly incapable of critical thought," he said. "Reasoned analysis, or an unblinked, even uncomfortable examination of facts has, in many parts, given way to demagoguery."

Macdonald spoke in particular of American media and its tendency towards "patriotic correctness." Today, he said, American media sources are going so far as to adopt government buzz phrases like "US-backed governing coalition in Iraq," "war on terror" without even considering their implications. He ended his speech with a call to "tear away at hypocrisy, not practice it," to a standing ovation from our country's student journalists.

Many in the room went away feeling empowered and inspired, but it turned out at least some present had completely misunderstood the point of Macdonald's speech. The next day, at the organization's annual general meeting, a motion was put forward stating that student newspapers in Canada should be mandated by the organization to act as a "force for social change in an unequal society."

While I understand the importance of justice in our society, I was nonetheless uneasy with the motion. Macdonald was encouraging us to inform ourselves, do our research, and consider everything with a critical eye. He was not telling us to go out and change the world, nor should he have been.

I was always taught that news reporting, above all other things, should be balanced and fair. In other words, you do your research and make sure you have all your facts straight before presenting them to the public, but once those facts are out there, you have to stand back and let the people make their own decisions about what is just and unjust in society. After all, why should it be any better for a newspaper to tell you what you think rather than a government?

Individual reporters can't allow themselves to become complacent any more than those running the media sources. As we have seen here in Canada with right-wing publications like the *National Post* and left-wing newspapers like *Seamagine* or *Vue Weekly*, it is far too easy to give a media source an ideological slant and get away with it. There is nothing wrong with running columns from the point of view of one end of the political spectrum, but those have to be balanced with equally radical columns from the other side.

The job of the media is to present all sides of an issue to the public and let them make up their own minds as to whether it is right or wrong. When a reporter does not present all the facts accurately and completely, just as when a newspaper becomes ideologically complacent and runs editorials from only one point of view, the public's knowledge and opinions on an issue is being slanted, often without their knowledge.

Perhaps the hardest job a journalist has is to present an issue accurately with no personal bias. But, alongside with ensuring that all the facts are there, this is also a journalist's most important job. The media should let the public make up their own minds; never should we try to do it for them.

KRISTINE OVRAM  
News Editor

## LETTERS

### Hanasyk's opinion on gun registry ludicrous

It's not very often I get so wrapped up in a subject that I feel the need to write into a paper. However Ms Hanasyk's opinion on the gun registry got me going in a major way ("Opposition to gun control is ridiculous," 22 January).

Let me first start off by saying that I don't own a gun, never mind several guns that would necessitate needing a rack. I don't hunt, hell, I don't even fish. While I do agree with the picture Hanasyk paints of hunting as a "sport," her ideas on the gun registry are not only misinformed, but downright ignorant.

You see, the problem with the gun registry is that it's not going to be effective in stopping anything. Ms Hanasyk brought up the idea that the costs of the policy would in no way be equal to those losses that crime would cause. The problem is that no criminal is going to ever register his or her weapon. They're criminals! You think while they're holding up your local liquor store they might have a change of heart and decide to register their illegally-purchased, fully-automatic assault rifles?

The reason this registration is going to do nothing to combat crime is because it only targets lawful people, the same people who, oddly enough, tend to be the most responsible when it comes to gun ownership in the first place. Scary as that fact may be, I still would like to know how it is that this gun registry accomplishes any thing other than wasting money? Even Canadian police chiefs don't support it.

This piece of legislation does not deal with educating gun owners at all; it's not going to stop accidents from occurring. Somehow you might be able to justify the billions spent, but can't.

STEPHEN DUNN  
Arts II

### Lay off the Oilers, Chury

It seems like every time there is a sports opinion article with Joel Chury's name on it, he's bashing the Oilers and talking about the sad state of the once-proud franchise. Well apparently not everyone agrees with you.

According to ESPN.com's ultimate fan rankings, the Oilers are the eighth best prospects franchise and the top dog in the NHL.

Oh, and the Flames are 15th in the NHL and 52nd overall, just so you know.

BRETT KUNSTON  
Business II

### Music and movie downloading isn't piracy

This letter is in response to "Industry 'title guys' shouldn't have to shoulder the costs of piracy," 3 February.

The article's assertion is that downloading music or movies is theft. This is wholly incorrect. Theft is taking something from someone else such that they are deprived



OH MY GOD! THERE'S A BREAST ON TEEVEE!  
SOMEBODY INFORM THE FCC, FBI, CIA, THE  
POLICE! THIS IS A HEINOUS OUTRAGE!  
BLAME SOMEONE QUICK! HOW DISGUSTING!

of the item. Stealing a CD clearly deprives the store of a CD. However, downloading media doesn't rob anyone of anything tangible, it is a copy.

Whether this is morally right is for you to decide, but the distinction between theft and copyright infringement is extremely important.

ANISH CHARI  
Science IV

### The trouble with Manji

Recently, the University of Alberta was visited by Inshad Manji, the self-proclaimed Muslim-Refusenik, as part of the Revolutionary Speakers program set up by SU. Ms Manji criticized the Muslim Students' Association (MSA) for not attending and engaging her in a dialogued debate. The MSA's position, as previously stated, was that Ms Manji is simply irrelevant to us, in our understanding, she does not speak as a Muslim on behalf of Muslims; up until this point, she has simply been ignored. While the MSA wishes to maintain this position, we have been faced with a dilemma in that she has attacked our pure faith, and has attempted to disgrace Islam which, quite frankly, can be referred to as nothing less than an abuse of scholarship. So the MSA responds with the sole intention of dealing up misconception propagated by Ms Manji's book, *The Trouble with Islam*.

Ms Manji's inability to differentiate human ignorance from religious ordinances has resulted in an unrepeatable book, condemning Islam for the current behaviour of politicians, teachers, and her poor upbringing. Her thesis seems to revolve around a gross misinterpretation of a Prophetic report that likens religion to the way we conduct ourselves towards others. Context aside (which seems to be lacking in almost all the citations in her book), this does not mean that if people misbehave, then the religion is poor or problematic. Rather, if Muslims uphold to the characteristics of the beloved Prophet, then they adhere

to teachings of Islam; but if they don't, then they have deviated from that which is liked by Allah.

Ms Manji's poor understanding of not only prophetic reports, but also more importantly the Quran, publicly demonstrates her incapacity to research and perform the simplest of Quranic exercises. It is for this reason that the MSA has launched a website—[www.answeringmjanji.com](http://www.answeringmjanji.com)—to respond to the falsehood she spreads to shamelessly promote herself and her book. While even setting up this site is more time than we wanted to waste on her, it is the least we can do to properly educate the masses.

### MUSLIM STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

### Mind your washroom manners, everyone

This is an open letter to everyone who uses public washrooms on the U of A campus. As an individual who must use a wheelchair to get around because of Multiple Sclerosis, I must use, or try to find, a wheelchair-adapted public washroom stall when the call of nature is too loud to ignore. This is especially true when I'm here on campus during my bi-weekly exercise sessions at the Steadward Centre or attending afternoon aqua-aerobics classes which are periodically held by the Centre.

Recently, while on campus, I've noticed a few able-bodied individuals using the wheelchair stalls in the public washrooms by the Bookstore on the main floor in SUB. I can understand it when and if the other regular stalls are in use and the need is urgent. Last week, however, while in SUB, twice I found an able-bodied individual using the wheelchair stall when only one other stall—or none of them—were in use. Not only that, but I had to wait a good while for that person to finish up. You can imagine my frustration when he finally walked out (not wheeled out) and I'm doing my damndest to hold it in (a feat nearly impossible with MS). The last time this happened, I nearly missed my DATS ride home because of an able-bodied person

using a wheelchair stall.

Please understand, this is not a whiny complaint, nor is it a statement that the disabled deserve more rights than the able-bodied. Quite the contrary, my belief is that all persons, regardless of age, nationality, sex, creed, or disability are equal. Myself and my peers just ask that people have a little courtesy when using a public washroom with a wheelchair-adapted stall, be it here on campus or elsewhere. Place yourselves in our shoes, or better yet, our wheels. What if you were suffering from a condition such as a spinal cord injury or MS and had difficulty trying to get into a regular washroom stall because someone with no such condition was using the stall? I mean, we do have access to excellent incontinence supplies, but hey, even they can only do so much.

DARWIN SØRENSEN  
Steadward Centre Student

### Pedestrian attitudes as bad as drivers'

I see from the letter by Brian Jackson in the 2 February edition of the *Gateway* ("LTC escalator users be courteous") that the attitude of Edmonton drivers (ie "you are in my way, move!") has finally been adopted by Edmonton pedestrians.

Bravol Keep up the good work!

ED LEONARD  
Professor of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to [managing@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:managing@gateway.ualberta.ca).

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## Can't afford tuition? Auction your virginity



SARAH  
HANASK

I've held some pretty crappy jobs so I could pay for my education. I've folded deodorant-stained clothes as a change room attendant. I've copied and pasted virtually the same damn line of type from one spreadsheet to another for two solid summers as a "data entry clerk." I've even cut timecards out of low-quality construction paper for a period of about two months so that grimy welders could get paid to stare at my ass all day. But despite the hatred for monotonous "make work" jobs that soon formed within the pit of my being, I still maintained that "it could always be worse," and that at least they would get me through my degree with minimal, if any, debt accumulation.

Despite all this, never once in my more naïve and innocent years as a first-year student did I contemplate prostituting myself out in order to foot the bills of my "honourable" education.

But then again, I'm not Rosie Reid. Ms. Reid, an 18-year-old student at Bristol University in London, has been auctioning off her virginity on eBay as a method of paying for her education without graduating with enormous debts. Apparently, she would rather sleep with a complete stranger than take on years of relative poverty, and, until recently when eBay withdrew her offer on its site, had

"Online auctions have been around for awhile now, and if they've found people who actually want to buy a half-eaten piece of food from Justin Timberlake, I'm sure somewhere along the way there would have been enough perverts out there willing to deflower some southern belle from Hicktown, USA."

managed to accumulate bids of up to 10 000 pounds—the equivalent of over CAD \$24 000 by current exchange rates. She has consistently declared that she will continue the auction on her personal website instead.

After all this is said and done, only one question comes to mind: why hadn't someone thought of this way ago? Online auctions have been around for awhile now, and if they've found people who actually want to buy a half-eaten piece of food from Justin Timberlake, I'm sure somewhere along the way there would have been enough perverts out there willing to deflower some southern belle from Hicktown, USA. Clearly, people will buy anything, and this little business transaction is no exception. In all likelihood, Rosie Reid surrounds herself with peers who have a larger sexual repertoire than her, and she probably feels the sting of the word "virgin" just as much as she hurts when she checks her bank statement every month. I'd venture to say that this stunt is not only a clever method of educational funding, but a veiled attempt at becoming more of a woman in the eyes of her friends.

As a morality issue, I have no problem with Reid's plan of action. She's legal, and if she's comfortable with

this decision, as well as the degree of creepiness that her winning bidder may excite, then all the power to her. Hell, not everyone experiences the romantic-comedy version of first-time sex we've all become so conditioned to expect. At least Ms. Reid will get a free education and maybe a four-dollar combo platter breakfast at Denny's the next day. And with Alberta's imminent 5.3 per cent tuition increase and no prospects of easing this trend in the upcoming years, it seems like we've all been willingly taking it up the ass for our education for a while now. At least this way, someone's getting paid for it.

Hopefully this is more of a personal political statement towards education cuts than merely a media play by an attention-seeking political science student. And hopefully, when she graduates debt-free and discovers that the fruits of her labour have earned her nothing more than a desk job at a telemarketing company, she won't hesitate to dust off the old computer and auction off her first-born son to pay for her next degree. I won't be surprised. It seems everyone is eager for their own 15 minutes of fame, but hopefully for Reid, this guy will be good, and her gratification will last a little bit longer.

## It's high time for an old-timey revolution



DAVID  
BERRY

intriguing political theory that we should try sometime than a key to the very notion of democracy.

To be fair, this is as much our fault as it is the ineptitude of the particular opposition parties. The provincial Liberals have evidently given up on politics and taken to drinking social and playing Risk online—which they no doubt also always lose. In contrast, the New Democrats actually seem like a capable and well-organized party with solid leadership and a vision for the future. That's why it's such a shame they will never win anything, mostly because people in Alberta pronounce "NDP" with the same amount of contempt and loathing as they would use to say "Joseph Stalin killed my dog with a shovel and then made me register my firearm."

So, given the fact that voting is clearly not an effective means to turn down the sack on the other side of the river, we're left with essentially one option: revolution. Now, of course we could do this the pussy way and start up a grassroots movement, say,

on campus here, and slowly work our way to legitimacy as a political force and eventually take over by sheer overwhelming majority, leaving us with a province built on idealism that we could all believe in. But that would take awhile and involve a lot of sitting in meetings and organization and caring for extended periods of time, perhaps even as far as into next year.

What we need is some immediate gratification, by which I mean, naturally, the violent overthrow of the Alberta government. This wouldn't involve organizing or planning so much as smashing, and would also have the added bonus of being relatively easy to launch from campus here. I mean, the LRT runs right to the Legislature; we could hop the train, topple the government and be back in time for cheap drinks in RATT, all wearing our brand new "Premier" sashes.

That, or, you know, I could complain some more. That seems to have worked.

## Dave Alexander's **TOP TEN** Lies you're telling the cops

- 10 They're the ones who'll be sorry when you get out of the drunk-tank.
- 9 The dead guy fell on those bullets while rushing over to lend you his money.
- 8 Something or other about your "evil twin."
- 7 You always keep a pound of oregano taped to the inside of your toilet tank.
- 6 Janet Karpinski's nipple drove you to crime.
- 5 You were trying to push that goat out of the mud when your pants fell down.
- 4 In your best Obi-Wan voice: "These aren't the drugs you're looking for."
- 3 Your theory of "premeditated self-defense."
- 2 Those car stereos belong to the children.
- 1 "Look! Behind you! Ninjas!"

# Effective representation starts with a full Council chamber



JAKE  
TROUTON

Students' Council and the Canadian Senate have long had a lot in common. Both have been frequently accused, rightly or wrongly, of being ineffective and unrepresentative. The constituents of each body are usually hard-pressed to name more than one or two members of them. And these days, there's one more similarity to add to the list: Students' Council meetings, like those of the Senate, are increasingly characterized by a disturbing number of empty seats.

Council, as the legislative body of the Students' Union, must approve most SU decisions; it is, thus, theoretically important. Among other things, it's responsible for spending the large amount of money that the SU collects from students. Given Council's great responsibilities, it seems important that students should be well represented.

Yet of the 50 seats on Council, 16 are currently vacant after three more councilors were expelled at Tuesday's meeting. That means that a ridiculous 26 per cent of seats, and soon most likely over 30 per cent, have no one keeping them warm.

Oddly enough, the councilors expelled on Tuesday, along with several of the former holders of the other vacant seats, lost their seats for failing to meet attendance requirements.

"Students' Council has been operating with 20 per cent or more of its seats vacant for most of the year. But rather than do anything crazy like, say, see that the seats are filled, the increasingly sparse councilors who remain are standing by while the situation continues to get worse."

According to SU bylaw 100, councilors who miss five meetings total or three consecutively are automatically suspended. Certainly, student councilors should attend Council meetings. Students elect councilors to represent them, and those whose delegates don't show up for work are being underrepresented. But while attendance should be encouraged, the idea of expelling councilors for missing meetings doesn't seem like the best solution. It is extremely unlikely, after all, that any councilor will show up more often after being expelled than they did before.

Of course, if these people aren't showing up to meetings, it might seem that ditching them is no big loss: an empty seat is an empty seat, regardless of whether anyone is technically entitled to sit there. But councilors who miss some meetings don't necessarily miss all meetings. Many, if not all, of the expelled members were at the majority of meetings before being booted from Council, and would have continued to represent their constituents most of the time, at the very least. A part-time councilor isn't ideal, but if Council has any modicum of relevance, it's clearly better than no councilor at all.

And of course, missed meetings are often only temporary glitches. Former Ag/For councilor Paul Reikie, booted

from Council when his proxy failed to show for several summer meetings, has spent the bulk of the school year trying unsuccessfully to be reinstated.

Students' Council has been operating with 20 per cent or more of its seats vacant for most of the year. But rather than do anything crazy like, say, see that the seats are filled, the increasingly sparse councilors who remain are standing by while the situation continues to get worse.

Technically, Council isn't expelling these members; they are being automatically expelled when they fail to meet Bylaw 100's attendance requirements. But Council, or what's left it, has had plenty of opportunity to amend the bylaw; it has simply not done so. Clearly, the loss of one third of students' representation in their SU is just not an important enough matter for Council to deal with.

Most students will likely agree.

The SU, despite its power to essentially tax students and spend their money, is largely seen as an irrelevant institution, and thus representation within the SU is viewed as unimportant. That's certainly not so—but when Council itself doesn't see fit to address such a gaping hole in its relationship with its constituents, it's hard to blame students for not taking the SU seriously.

# Idiot voters don't pay attention to the issues; just the images



JOSH  
KRENNER

Canadian voters are idiots. Yep, that means pretty much everyone on campus is a blithering fucking nincompoop.

Canadian voters—especially in the federal sphere—vote not for substance, but for image and spin, thus making them idiots. Although this should be blindingly apparent in a country that elected Pierre Trudeau, it is once again coming to a head with the imminent reelection of yet another soul-draining liberal government, this time headed by Paul "Knuckles" Martin.

Some of you are probably now saying: "Imminent reelection? This vote is far from over, pawt-na!" And as much as I'd like to agree, we all know this vote can pretty much roll over and go to sleep while its unsatisfied partner lies there indignantly—it's done.

Here's what will happen this spring: First, the same 32 tambourine-playing pot-smokers who have won NDP for the last dozen or so elections will do it again in a desperate attempt to get the government to wipe their asses for them. Next, the right-wing party of the year will make an attempt to introduce some new ideas that might

"A quick look at the Liberals' Throne Speech reveals some very familiar policies: more money for our 'military'; a parliamentary action plan for democratic reform which includes more free votes and power for MPs, independent ethics officers, and a commitment to fiscal prudence."

actually appeal to a lot of Canadians, and then one of their moron backbench MPs from [insert "largely rural Alberta riding" here] will beat up a black Muslim homosexual woman. Finally, the Liberals, once again, will convince Ontario that whoever is on the 36-hour shift of leading said right-wing party is a fundamentalist, homophobic pedophile. And Ontario will let out a giant, collective "ahhh, fuck it" and amble into the polls to vote Liberal once again.

The really stupid part is that none of this is based on policies. It's all based on politicians and image. In the last election, the Liberals weren't pointing out objectionable policies like the Canadian Alliance's opposition to gay marriage—all they were talking about is how much Stockwell Day loved Jesus.

To be fair, the Alliance, if not as offensive, was almost as bad. The only reason a leader should ever show up to a press conference on a jet ski is if the icecaps melt and Canada becomes a post-apocalyptic water-covered wasteland—or "Waterworld," if you will—and Kevin Costner is leading an evil band of pirates bent on world dominance, and the leader is in a big

hurry and there are no helicopters, motor boats, gang gliders or canoes available. In any case except for this, it's just a shameless attempt to make a leader look young and hip.

This trend has never been more apparent than right now. A quick look at the Liberals' Throne Speech reveals some very familiar policies: more money for our "military," a parliamentary action plan for democratic reform which includes more free votes and power for MPs, independent ethics officers, and a commitment to fiscal prudence.

As well, Paul "Knuckles" Martin has been paying so much attention to George W Bush lately, you'd think he was trying to plough him. These themes sound very familiar indeed, especially to the western Canadian. Why? They were the key tenets of the Canadian Alliance's platform last election.

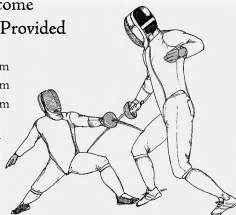
So, we now have a party that is basically the Canadian Alliance at a jet ski in favour of gay marriage and their leader isn't from Alberta. But since they have a moderate image in the eyes of the electorate, they're going to win the next election.

Fuck, are we idiots.

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## Textbooks: the other *other* white meat



MEGHAN MORRIS

For most student requests, "no" is a favorite word of governments and universities. And ironically, those of us pursuing a higher education don't seem very sharp on the uptake. I understand why we keep fighting for tuition freezes, but before the question is out of student representatives' mouths, the answer is already "no." Why not add something else to the request?

Expensive textbooks are a great example. You will end up using maybe 20 per cent of most textbooks, which coincidentally is the legal amount you can photocopy from one textbook without getting into legal trouble. I was very frustrated when I found out that my class last term did not have a single copy of the textbook on reserve. For the amount that we had to read, I didn't appreciate spending \$90. It would be completely feasible for the University to place one textbook on reserve for every 20 students in a class. It could even be included as a class fee. Would you be willing to pay \$10 per class for the use of a textbook? Sure, you would have to share with nine other people, but that is certainly worth a measly \$100 per year for textbook use.

Don't forget that most books may be used for more than one term, and if the textbook is already available for other classes, the fee decreases. We could ask the provincial government for a grant every four years (perhaps election years) to help offset fees. As the provincial government has proven on numerous occasions, it is excellent at dealing out lump sums, but not so reliable at giving reliable stipends.

Another alternative concerning textbooks is

exceedingly simple. Along with the rest of the information provided on BearTracks, information on textbooks to be used in the class should be given. That would allow students time to shop around for their books. Most of my texts could be obtained through Amazon.ca, but due to shipping times, there was no way to get the books into my hands by the time I needed them. Amazon's prices were approximately 25 per cent cheaper than the Bookstore's, but it would take three to four weeks to ship them. If textbook information was posted on BearTracks, it could save students hundreds of dollars, and a lot of hassle.

Professors' opinions of textbooks are beginning to shift and align with those of students. Yet there are still professors who abuse their own students by forcing them to purchase a book they've written. Thus they create the demand for a textbook, whose proceeds profit the professor directly. If professors are truly committed to helping students survive financially, then I urge them to implement a fee and reserve system.

You might think that I'm against textbooks, but I'm not. I'm just trying to think of ways to make students' lives less of a headache, and thus prevent students from having to worry about unpaid bills and a debt load they will still be paying off when their kids get to university. I could fill this whole newspaper with ideas to improve the feasibility of postsecondary education and related issues, but that isn't the point. The point is to make students realize how a little creativity, brainstorming, and better bargaining strategies could improve our collective financial woes.

When we ask for a tuition freeze, we should include a request for something less costly than the freeze. Say the freeze would cost \$20 million; then also request \$5 million for the U of A Textbook Relief Fund. We may not get all that we want, but at this point we should be resigned that. Besides, we don't have anything to lose. At least we might get something better than a straight "no" out of the deal.

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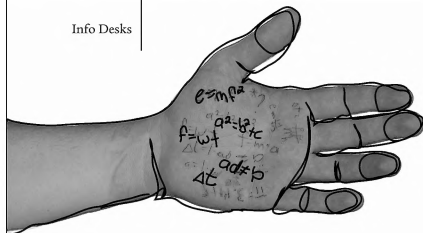
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# Nipplegate: shame on us



ADAM  
RUIZHART

one thing remains obvious: Jackson's breast, for better or worse, got everyone's attention. And this will no doubt serve to bolster the sale of her forthcoming album, touted by her label as her sexiest release yet.

Perhaps most disturbing about this incident isn't the exposure of Jackson's breast or even the racy halftone show itself. What is most shocking is that the media is giving so much airtime and so many column inches to cover this insipid stunt. Whether or not this act is deemed by the FCC as "lacking serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value" is irrelevant. What is perhaps most important is what Timberlake said in a subsequent *Access Hollywood* interview: "Hey man, we love giving you all something to talk about."

Those sound like the words of your typical, attention-seeking child. Timberlake and Jackson sought a reaction, and they got millions, mostly negative. Stupidly, like a parent at his or her wit's end, we've collectively thrown up our hands, and rather than simply say, "What you did was dumb," and move on, we've decided to throw a tantrum of our own.

This entertainment industry one-upmanship of who can come up with the most jarring and headline-grabbing stunt is a tired game, exacerbated by a slandering media eager to pounce on anything racy, regardless of its tiresome simplicity and abject stupidity. Sure, I'm outraged—outraged that normal people are getting upset over a breast that was onscreen for no more than a few seconds and was covered in an ornate piece of metal obscuring any offensive piece of skin anyway.

Like lapdogs, the media—"we"—just eat it up. Shame on Janet Jackson! Hell no. Shame on us.

I'm a total hypocrite. By even writing about what many newspapers and television networks have already deemed "Nipplegate," I'm simply dumping an unsafe amount of gasoline on the fires of the much-maligned Super Bowl halftone show. But let's be very clear on one thing: what transpired at the Super Bowl was nothing more than a publicity stunt, and given the headlines—on CNN, MSNBC, CTV NewsNet, and a couple of dozen news websites—the mainstream media is not only feeding off the subsequent outrage expressed by many viewers, but they've helped to make this the most successful publicity stunt of the 21st century.

At first, people were certain that an error had been made. Perhaps prettyboy Justin Timberlake hadn't cut his fingernails and they got caught on Janet Jackson's bustier. Perhaps Timberlake planned to expose Jackson, and Jackson had no prior knowledge. But as tempers flared—and publicists charged the front lines, bayonettes ready to stab bad publicity and outrage in the throat—this thing became abundantly clear: this was a calculated stunt, no matter how shocked Timberlake looked, and no matter how many times Jackson said, "It was not my intention that it go as far as it did."

Though it's unclear whether or not Jackson was referring to the fall-out from the stunt or the stunt itself,

# Do you know what your T-shirt means?



MELVIN  
BACKSTROM

Now, it has always struck me as a rather bizarre phenomenon why anyone would pay money to have themselves serve as walking advertisements, as happens every time you buy clothing with a readily identifiable label on it. Are people who do this actually proud that they've paid double, or even triple, the price for a T-shirt or pair of jeans that is, besides the label, indistinguishable from a non-label version? I'd think they'd be embarrassed, but such is the lack of critical analysis in this information-overloaded society that such questions are reduced simply to a matter of "style."

**There are few things more ridiculous than those who think they're expressing their uniqueness by wearing a shirt of their favourite band, when all they're actually doing is subsume their own identity under the protective embrace of a collective conformity.**

Not that this is only a problem for those who religiously follow modern fashion trends. One needs to look no further than the continuing propagation of the Cult of Che Guevara to see an equally inexplicable phenomenon. I could understand it in Cuba, where Castro acts as its High Priest and keeps Che's memory alive as a distraction from his own despotism. But here? Yes, the guy had his inspirational qualities,

but he also did some rather horrible things, like being in charge of the summary trials and executions that killed hundreds suspected of collaborating with the Batista regime after the Cuban Revolution and advocating the use of nuclear weapons by the Soviet Union as a solution to the Cuban Missile Crisis. He also did some really stupid things like try to start a revolution in Bolivia when there was little, if any, support for such a thing—which is, of course, what ended up getting him killed.

But I would have thought that the first adoption of his famous visage by a major-label rock band—which is all that *Rage Against The Machine* actually was, despite their pretensions of revolutionary significance, especially if you buy into the Marxist-derived economic determinism that Guevara himself espoused—and then, most inexplicably of all, by a soda pop manufacturer (anyone remember Revolution Soda?), would have finally convinced everyone of the ridiculousness of relying on such an easily co-optable politics to express their taste for radical politics.

My point is that symbols, like words, have meanings that cannot be altered by personal fiat and that inevitably supersede one's individuality. There are few things more ridiculous than those who think they're expressing their uniqueness by wearing a shirt of their favourite band, when all they're actually doing is subsume their own identity under the protective embrace of a collective conformity.

Of course, there's no "outside" to the world of symbolic representations. They are, like the usage of words, unavoidable. However, one should at least be aware of their meaning and not pretend as if they are somehow an exception to their rules.

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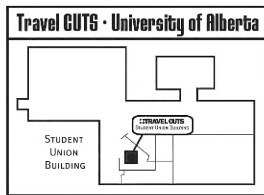
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## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Our illustrious Arts & Entertainment writers go out and get the skinny on what's happening over the weekend and into next week so you don't have to.

**Jim Brenan Trio**  
Friday, 6 February  
Yardbird Suite

Homegrown talent Jim Brenan is no regular jazz musician. What started out as an undergraduate degree in Jazz Studies later led Brenan to a Masters from Rutgers University in New Jersey. Now, the saxophonist manages a busy schedule as both the Coordinator of Jazz Studies at the University of Auckland and a cross-Canada performer. So why not stop by the Yardbird this week and experience Brenan's "deep understanding of jazz tradition" for yourself?

**Pilate**  
with Stabulo  
Saturday, 7 February  
Powerplant



If every band has a secret, Pilate's is that frontman Todd Clark's harmonious voice is the result of formal vocal training. The dream to sing in a rock band has since then led Clark to have to "unlearn" what he was taught, and he can be heard, along with the rest of Pilate, on their newest release *Caught by the Window*. Melancholy yet playful, the band continuously undergoes musical experimentation and is best heard at the Plant over a cold pint of beer.

**Vincent In Brixton**  
Opens Friday, 6 February  
The Roxy

At the age of 21, Vincent Van Gogh travelled to London to discover himself, but instead, he discovered madness, art and the tragic ecstasies of love. Based on the artist's surviving letters, *Vincent In Brixton* explores the roots of what was to become his world-renowned, yet short, foray into the world of painting and artistry. Viewer discretion is advised.

**Studying For Midterms**  
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It's almost reading week and you know what that means: tons of assignments stacked ceiling-high and five exams all on consecutive days. We both know that despite your rebellious nonchalantness, you'd like to pass your courses, so what better way to spend the next week than to superglue your eyes open and hit the books? After all, those first 14 chapters of your *Fundamentals of Xenotransplantation* book won't read themselves.

ASH SZKUDLAREK  
Philanthropist Superstar

## Despistado sticks up for Regina

**Despistado**  
with guests  
Thursday, 5 February  
Seedy's

ROSS MOROZ  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

A comedian once assessed Canada's cities by saying that, in a perfect life, a Canadian should be born in Halifax, move to Montréal for his twenties, live in Vancouver during his thirties, be forty in Calgary and retire in Victoria. Regina would only enter the picture after his death, and even then only if he had been very naughty. In all fairness to Regina, Wascana Lake may smell bad, but it's no river Styx. Despistado—the latest band to emerge from the increasingly vibrant Regina scene—doesn't think of their home base as Hell; they admit they have begun to cherish the merits of their home scene after seeing what the rest of Canada has to offer.

"Everywhere we go, we realize that Regina has a great scene," explains Despistado guitarist Dagan Harding over the phone from his aforementioned home town. "Not the quantity so much, but the quality." He might be on to something; compared to its wealthier, bigger, more cosmopolitan Albertan counterparts, Regina has recently produced better and more interesting bands than Edmonton or Calgary. Along with similar acts like Syvie and Ghosts of Modern Man, Despistado have been slowly but surely showing the rest of Canada that, while Regina might be thought of as pretty crummy city, its superior music scene just might be able to make up its lack of an NHL team or that weird lake smell.

Harding has a theory on why Regina has become such fertile ground for new talent: "The scene here is fairly musical, but it's not very organized; you don't see the business side of it as much as you do in Edmonton or Vancouver," he says, noting that he feels like a lot of bands



**QUALITY OVER QUANTITY** Despistado are one of the few, but great bands emerging from Regina.

from other western Canadian cities seem more interested in popularity than music.

Seeing as they hail from the Peoples' Republic of Saskatchewan, it should not be surprising that Despistado are big supporters of government funding of Canadian musical talent; indeed, thanks to a grant from the Foundation Assisting Canadian Talent on Record (FACTOR), Despistado are flying to Austin, Texas next month to perform at the South by Southwest Music Festival.

That said, Harding is critical of the way funding and support is allocated. "Just because you're a Canadian band doesn't make you representative of Canadian culture," remarks Harding, clearly annoyed at the current state of mainstream music in Canada. Not surprisingly, Harding's criticisms are personified by one particular western Canadian rock act. "Nickelback

are businessmen, not musicians. Sorry guys: eight million people are wrong."

According to Harding, the proliferation of Nickelback is merely indicative of a larger problem with mainstream Canadian music. "When I turn on the radio, I hear the same five bands that all sound the same," Harding asserts. "There are a lot of shitty bands, and they're getting a lot of exposure, but I don't know how to stop it."

Judging by the excellent *At the Drive In* meets *The (International) Noise Conspiracy* rock put out by Despistado so far, if there is any justice in Canadian music at all, they will soon be getting the exposure that has so far been reserved for "shitty bands." Then Despistado, having done their part to improve the Hell that is Regina, can begin to improve the Hell that is modern Canadian rock. Good luck, guys.

## Dentists explores tooth/family/moral decay

**The Secret Lives of Dentists**

Starring Campbell Scott, Hope Davis and Denis Leary  
Directed by Alan Rudolph  
Opens Friday, 6 February  
Metro Cinema

JASON NORMAN  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Despite the 2004 movie season being but one month old, already we've been barraged with heaps of celluloid-wasting junk: there's been a movie about super-speed bikes that blow up parking meters, some kind of high-school SAT heist "drama," and even a flick revolving around hip-hop dancing that dared to take itself seriously. And for those three reasons alone, it is refreshing to see a movie meant for an audience with an intelligence at least even with the legal drinking age. *The Secret Lives of Dentists* is an insightful dramatic comedy that uses the lives of two married dentists as a backdrop for examining the fragility that exists underneath a surface that may appear perfect and strong.

The film is told from the perspective of David (Campbell Scott) and his wife Dana (Hope Davis), who get along quite comfortably as dentists and have a beautiful family made up of three young daughters. David was never a social awayer, but has put his shy, reserved side away in order to keep a healthy and happy home life, until certain clues start to arise that his wife, Dana, may be having an affair. As David grows all the more jealous, his imagination begins to soar while he explores all the different scenarios of what his wife's secret life is like and what will become of his happy family if she is to leave him. The tension grows even



stronger as David refuses any kind of confrontation with his wife, and soon the personality of one of his most difficult clients, Slater (Denis Leary), begins to haunt David's already wandering thoughts and fears.

Leary's character gives voice to David's darker side, and his brash personality forces David to confront the problems in his marriage and say the things he normally would not. Dana, meanwhile, has found herself in a position where her connection to her life, husband and children is not as strong as it once was, and she begins searching desperately for escape. Dana and David are at opposite sides of the same life, and the film observes carefully and looks on tight to these two individuals as they try to remove themselves from this "age of grief," as David calls it, and hopefully pull one another into the middle.

David's profession as a dentist and the theme of teeth are used as strong metaphors for love and

marriage in this film. "Teeth outlast everything. Death is nothing to a tooth—life is what destroys teeth," David remarks in his opening monologue, which sets the tone for his entire character, who sees the job of a dentist taking care of something only so it can survive another day of torture by the way we live our lives. Similarly, David tries to keep his family and life strong, only to watch it be attacked by the eroding relationship between him and his wife.

*The Secret Lives of Dentists* is a small, quiet movie that tells a simple story with style, imagination, and soul. The themes of love and jealousy, family and married life are all balanced well and the humorous social commentary are a welcome change from super-bikes that blow women's skirts off. This is fine piece of storytelling that proves there are actually movies out there for adults, and this is the type of movie they deserve to see.

# Maroon 5 back on top and loving it

## Maroon 5

with guests  
Tuesday, February  
The Joint

HEATHER ADLER  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

There's an old saying that goes "you can never appreciate true success until you've experienced bitter defeat," and for the soulful, LA-based, alternative rock outfit Maroon 5, it's an axiom that has rung true: they've gone from being dropped by their label in 1998 to being a gold-selling act, scoring spots on some of the winter's most coveted tours, and all it took was a little college soul-searching.

It's the best feeling in the world to have had failure with our first project and now to be experiencing success with our new album. People are going out and requesting our songs on the radio and buying the record—it's so much more gratifying because we never had that before," Maroon 5 keyboardist Jesse Carmichael remarks, explaining how the band's previous incarnation, Kara's Flowers, fell flat after releasing their first and only album on Reprise Records. "Since we've experienced failure, it makes it much more sweet this time."

After becoming a critically-acclaimed but poor-selling act with their endeavours as Kara's Flowers, the boys in Maroon 5 took a break from the music industry to regain their focus while attending universities in New York and LA. Upon being exposed to some R&B influences and dabbling in the hip-hop culture, the group reformed with a new, funkier sound and found themselves suddenly shooting to the top of the US charts



**LEAD TURNED TO GOLD** Once musical dropout go gold with new project.

with the support of blockbuster label BMG. They've since played *Late Night* with David Letterman, *Conan O'Brien, Last Call* with Carson Daly, and toured across the country with big-name acts like John Mayer, Sheryl Crow, Train, and Counting Crows, but Carmichael says the real highlight has been the bands latest tour where they finally got a chance to go out on their own.

"A lot of the shows we've played in the last year have been surreal and beautiful," he gushes. "We played our first headlining shows across the United States, and it was so special because I kept thinking that another band would be on after us, but then I realized that people were actually there to see us. It was very exciting."

Now, riding off the strength of their debut single "Harder To Breathe" and

their new moniker, Maroon 5 doesn't have a complaint in the world; they're just looking forward to spreading their tunes to Canada as they make their way across our frozen nation this month.

"I love the very idea of traveling and the feeling of bringing our music to different cities and to people who have never seen us before," Carmichael says. "There's no hard part about this life; the struggle is just to stay happy and that's the point of being alive—to enjoy yourself."

"We started this band when we were 14, so we didn't really have any goals—it was just to have fun. It's stayed that way for the ten years that we've stayed together, and I just hope people continue to enjoy us for what we are."

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Two Referenda questions have been proposed for the upcoming general election on March 31th and 4th:

- 1) "Do you support the elimination of Section 2 (c) of Article VIII of the Students' Union Constitution, which currently reads: 'Pursuant to a referendum passed on 6 and 7 March 1991, the sum of Three Dollars and Thirty-Six cents (\$3.36) per Fall or Winter Term from each full-time and part-time student's Students' Union fees will be allocated to the Golden Bear and Panda Legacy Fund.'? The results of this referendum will be binding the Students' Union in accordance with Article V of the Students' Union Constitution."
- 2) Do you support the establishment of a Universal Bus Pass subject to the following conditions:
  1. That the pass would provide unlimited access to participating municipal transit systems during the Fall and Winter terms
  2. That the pass would cost each student a maximum of \$60.00 per Fall or Winter term
  3. That the pass would be mandatory for all undergraduate students except:
    - a.) Students not residing in a municipality served by a participating municipal transit system;
    - b.) Students, who are for an entire term, not attending courses on the University of Alberta campus; and
    - c.) Students who, by reason of disability, are unable to make use of ordinary transit services
  4. That this referendum would bind the Students' Union to enter into an agreement on the terms outlined in this referendum as soon as possible; and
  5. That this referendum would expire April 30, 2006.

A meeting of those registering "Yes" and "No" sides for each question will take place immediately following the registration deadline on February 12th at 5pm in room 306 SUB.

**vote**

STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS 2004

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## Stones puts a refreshing spin on an old Hollywood story

## Stones in His Pockets

Starring John Kirkpatrick and John Ulyatt  
Directed by James MacDonald  
The Citadel  
Now ShowingCANDACE STEVENS  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Two worlds clash as the glitz and glam of Hollywood invades the quiet life of average folk in the Citadel's latest theatre opus, *Stones in His Pockets*. The story explored in this play may be taken too many times before in the cinema, but this time it's the stage taking a stab at the silver screen.

The locals of the sleepy Irish village of Kerry are ecstatic when the movie-making machine of Hollywood comes to town and employs many of the townsfolk as extras in their latest blockbuster. Included in the casting call are the cynical Jake Quinn (John Kirkpatrick) and optimistic out-of-towner Charlie Conlon (John Ulyatt), but the romantic lure of Tinseltown quickly comes to an end when a small town boy, Sean Harkin, experiences Hollywood heartbreak over a glamorous movie star who dumps him. Harkin commits suicide by walking into the river with "stones in his pockets" and the funeral causes conflict when it's scheduled in the midst of a movie shoot and the town is forced to do some serious soul-searching as they collectively contemplate what is more important: Hollywood glamour or hometown friendships?

While the premise in this play is engaging, it's outshined by the fact that



SUPPLIED BY TELUS BROTHERS PHOTOGRAPHY

HOLLYWOOD VS HICKS Conlon and Kirkpatrick take on 15 roles in *Stones*.

the entire cast of characters is played by only two actors; Kirkpatrick and Conlon act out the parts of the entire township and all of the film production crew, taking on 15 roles each in total. This complicated juggling act alone is worth the ticket price, as just seeing the pair run around having multi-way conversations with themselves is incredibly entertaining. The actors show their sheer athletic ability in accomplishing this feat, especially in an Irish jig scene where they manage to dance for every character in the script. The role transitions are successfully expressed to the audience with a distinctive stance, mannerism, and accent created for each character, which makes this play a truly one-of-a-kind experience.

Individual character development does tend to be a slight problem with each actor playing so many roles: some are dead-on, while others get stumbled through. Ulyatt is a barrel of laughs when he embodies the feminine charms of Caroline Giovanni, the

hair flipping Hollywood diva, but he doesn't have the same success with her methead bodyguard. Kirkpatrick has trouble with his cross-gender role as the ditzy production assistant Ashley, who comes across as a flamboyantly gay man, causing some confusion when she's mentioned by the other characters. But all these blunders are redeemed by his perfectly on-the-mark portrayal of the local drunk Old Mickey, for which Kirkpatrick actually walks around on his knees, which makes for some of the funniest moments in the play.

Overall, the good outweighs the bad in *Stones in His Pockets*, as the accomplished actors successfully take on the parts that would give those with less talent nightmares. The plot pulls off its comedic elements despite being about the dark subject of suicide and neatly ties it all together in a surprising and memorable ending. This play may not run on the most original premise ever, but the imaginative execution make it very much worth seeing.

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# You Got Served full of amazing dance moves, little else

## You Got Served

Starring Raz B, Lil' Fizz, Jennifer Freeman, Meagan Good and Steve Harvey  
Directed by Christopher B Stokes  
Sony Pictures  
[www.sonypictures.com/movies/yogotserved](http://www.sonypictures.com/movies/yogotserved)

PAUL KNOECHEL  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Even if you're dimwitted enough to enjoy the gratuitous dance sequences that have come to hijack the intelligence-sucking static of MTV in recent years, there's still absolutely no reason to like Christopher B Stokes' latest mindless, booty-shaking opus, *You Got Served*. The music video mogul—who was behind such disasters as B2K's "Girlfriend"—made his cinematic debut in 2001 with the never-released-in-theatres bomb *House Party 4* and shows no sign of improving with this cinematic monstrosity.

The plot of *You Got Served*, if it can be called that, has David (Omari Grandberry), and Elgin (Marques Houston of IMx) fronting two dance "crews," which dominate all the other local dance "crews" in the neighborhood, until a new pack from Orange County arrives and becomes the new top street dancers. After the Orange County Crew, fronted by a rich boy named Wade (Christopher Jones), dethrones the hometown group, both the posers and the movie take a serious turn for the worse.

David starts dating Elgin's younger sister despite big brother's bitching, an obese and ridiculous-looking crime boss tries to act intimidating, and there's inexplicable dancing practice in the rain. By the end, nothing makes much sense, but luckily, you stopped caring long before that.

The characters are about as three-dimensional as you would expect from a glorified music video, with none of them ever really being developed beyond the point of being pretty dance puppets. Each of the well-groomed boogie boys and girls are referred to by single syllable names and with the exception of a character named "Mr Rad" (Steve Harvey),



**YOU GOT SUCK** Hip-hoppers who can't act make for bad, bad movies.

the referee and father figure in this movie occurs in the direction and writing. And just like their lack of real names, they also lack real dialogue, emotion and background stories, which makes it incredibly difficult to care about anyone on more than the same superficial level that the movie is premised on.

But by far the largest downfall in this movie occurs in the direction and writing. I don't know if Mr Stokes is a complete shut-in and has never actually witnessed how normal people interact, but the way he's matched the "hardcore" hip-hoppers against one another is laughable at best. Not to mention the fact that the dance sequences, which are the only well-crafted part of the movie with their flamboyant choreography, are edited so erratically it is impossible to actu-

ally appreciate them for having any artistic value at all.

Then there are the stupid subplots that don't go anywhere and are obscurely taken care of when the writers realize that they can't really do anything about it. One of the most obtuse of these revolves around some missing drug money and the stereotypical threats from some under-world mobsters, but it's inexplicably resolved when Mr Rad declares "It's taken care of," in the last third of the movie.

The dancing is certainly impressive, and at some points absolutely incredible, but it certainly isn't enough to save this movie; rather, it simply serves to divide *You Got Served* into two discernible halves: the dancing and the obligatory bubble breaks.



**The Stills**  
*Logic Will Break Your Heart*  
Warner  
[www.thestills.com](http://www.thestills.com)

JORDAN COOK  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Montréal's The Stills recently moved to New York City for a few months, played some show with such luminary bands as Yeah Yeah Yeahs and The Rapture and recorded songs for Vice Records. The resulting album, *Logic Will Break Your Heart*, is a collection of charming, sleepy post-punk tunes, reminiscent of The Cure and Joy Division. The influence of Interpol is immediately obvious, and the best moments on *Logic* are those when the band sounds most like the New York quartet. The best song on the album is undoubtedly "Still in Love Song," in which the band sheds some of the wall of sound they've created for a more straightforward delivery of melody and lyrics. It is this song that display takes the album from boring to beautiful.

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# Why leave paradise?

Spanish immersion adventure  
in Guatemala

Guatemala isn't a country you hear much about. Dwarfed in population and size (in much the same way as Canada is to the United States) by Mexico, its neighbour to the north, it's a country still recovering from a 40-year-long civil war that finally ended in 1996. Since then, it has made great progress rebuilding damaged infrastructure, re-establishing security, and beginning the difficult process of demilitarization, improvements which help to make it an ever more inviting place to visit.

Situated in a very tectonically active part of the world, Guatemala is very defined by its geography. Bordering on the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, the country's landscape ranges from highlands stretching along the western coast to thick jungle in the northeast. It's also the heart of the Mayan world with over 50 per cent of its population having Mayan ancestry, and though Guatemala's official language is Spanish, on account of it being a Spanish colony from the arrival of the Conquistadores in the early 16th century until 1821, there are over 22 distinct indigenous languages being spoken.

Guatemala's language brought me there. As one of the most widely used languages in the world, the desire to learn Spanish is increasingly common in our ever-more connected world. To cater to this demand, Guatemala now contains dozens of language schools all over the country that offer inexpensive immersion programs. Many schools offer the possibility of staying with a family, which guarantees not only the opportunity to speak Spanish all the time, but a direct cultural experience.

The majority of the schools are in three places: the old colonial capital of Antigua, Quetzaltenango (more commonly called Xela: the "X" is pronounced with a "sh" sound), or San Pedro Laguna on the shores of Lake Atitlan; a lake that was called "the most beautiful

Words and photos:  
Mel Backstrom



lake in the world" by renowned English writer Aldous Huxley upon his visit in 1932.

Over the holiday break, I traveled back to Guatemala (I visited two years ago) with a friend to study Spanish. My friend and I chose San Pedro. Along with an opportunity to study Spanish, San Pedro offered a laid-back atmosphere, incredible environmental beauty, and the culture and ways of life of the Mayan people. It's also the cheapest place to study Spanish in Guatemala, if not the world.

For 20 hours of one-on-one instruction spread over five days and accommodation with a local family (includes three meals a day for seven days) it costs \$90 American or approximately \$115 Canadian. Comparable programs elsewhere in Central America are usually double this price, and the cost of Mexican programs are higher still.

We stayed with a local family, the Garcías. School days began early with a breakfast at 7:30 AM made by Rosa, the mother of the family. It included fresh tropical fruit and locally roasted coffee (which grows all over the town and surrounding areas). After breakfast we'd head down to the school for four hours of study.

While the beaches were inviting, those four hours of daily studying were my most enjoyable times in Guatemala. Though my teacher and I worked on the formal aspects of the language, the most valuable part of our time was spent discussing everything from how cold it gets in Canada (which he couldn't believe), to the history of Guatemala and the extent of government corruption there. Most people I met were friendly and willing to talk with me, but it was very difficult to get into as much conversational detail as I did with my teacher. As there was a presidential election going on while I was there, it was particularly interesting to hear his perspective

on the candidates and the political process in general. Though he knew who he was going to vote for, his perspective on politicians was pretty brutal: "they're all corrupt and only want to fill their own pockets by taking from the poor." He did say, however, that things were slowly improving.

The holiday festivities included nightly basketball tournaments in the town square, various parades, and a Christmas Eve dance/costume competition, all accompanied by the constant sights and sounds of fireworks and firecrackers. For a country so affected by war, the people get quite a thrill out of setting off explosions that sound eerily like artillery shells. As this occurred at pretty much any hour of the day and night, earplugs would have been a nice thing to have had.

There were two Christmas parties at Corazón Maya, one for kids and one for adults. The kids' party was particularly fun, as I was, for some reason, chosen to play Santa Claus. Beginning with an incredibly loud series of firecracker explosions (a seemingly required occurrence for any Guatemalan special event), games were played and gifts were handed out to the many children by yours truly dressed up in a much-too-small Santa costume. The next night, a giant feast of local food was prepared and all the students, teachers along with other friends and acquaintances from the town had a wonderful time celebrating together. Though we all came from diverse backgrounds and countries of origin, our differences faded away as we ate, drank and talked under the night sky.

There are few other places in the world that contain such a wealth of cultural and environmental opportunities at such a relatively inexpensive cost. It's an almost ideal travel destination that still draws me and many others back. One Vancouver native who I met in Guatemala had come there seven years before and had never left. "Why leave Paradise once you've found it?" he said. I, unfortunately, had to come back to finish my degree, but I will definitely make it back there some day.

Though we all came from diverse backgrounds and countries of origin, our differences faded away as we ate, drank and talked under the night sky.

Our discussions on local politics made the excitement of the presidential campaigning all the more memorable. Like Canadian election times, everywhere there were posters, signs and slogans, the campaign materials painted on nearly every surface imaginable. But in addition to these familiar campaigning strategies,

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# Though

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countries of origin, our differences faded away as we ate, drank and talked under the night sky.

Guided by school reviews we found on the Internet, we ended up at Corazón Maya, a school run by a delightful married couple, Antonio and Marta. It was an excellent choice. Somewhat away from the main part of the city, Corazón Maya is on a beautiful lakeside with a beach for swimming and a great view of the surrounding volcanoes close by. As there were a number of other students from all over the world at the school, it had a very international flavour: Japan, the Netherlands, Germany, the UK, the USA and (of course) Canada were all represented.

## THE PEP RALLY

### Hockey

Here **Pandas** (18-0-0), despite the fact they could play without a goalie and still shut out most teams, are still being made to actually play their games rather than simply being handed the two points and given a brief rub-down by rotund German women. As such, the comically-named University of Regina Cougars will be in town and, after a night of attempted statutory goings-on, will head to Clare Drake for "games" at 7pm both Friday and Saturday. Any young males attending the games are advised to sit high up and carry pepper spray.

Also undefeated, but sadly not perfect, the **Bears** (21-0-1) make their way to Vancouver to take on the UBC Thunderbirds. I'll bet you that one tie really eats the Bears up, don't you? I mean, a loss is a loss, but having your perfect season ruined by a tie? That would drive me nuts. Totally nuts. Like, so nuts I would just want to smash my hand with a hammer and scream profanities at God. I'm glad I'm not just short of perfect. Anyway, they can strive to near perfection at 8:30pm both Friday and Saturday, and you can hear Bob Stauffer almost perfectly call the games on **CISR FM88** both nights.

### Volleyball

Did you know that the term "volleyball" comes from the German term "Völle," which means rad? Therefore, the literal translation is actually radball. To see some radball this weekend, you could head to the Main Gym and watch the **Bears** (12-4) take on the decidedly un-rad University of Winnipeg Wesmen. As mentioned before in this space, Wesmen is a really bad name for a team. In fact, they might as well call themselves the Winnipeg "We-suck-it-hards" because that's essentially what a name like Wesmen suggests. Anyway, the We-suck-it-hards will be playing the Bears at 8pm Friday and 6:30pm Saturday.

Also playing the Winnipeg We-suck-it-hards at radball this weekend will be the **Pandas** (14-0), led by their personable and fittingly rad coach Laurie Eisler. I got to talk to Ms Eisler this week, and I can assure you that there could not possibly be a more personable or rad coach at the University unless their name was Personable McRadington. Anyway, catch Ms McRadington and her Pandas in action against the We-suck-it-hards at 6:30pm Friday and 8pm Saturday.

### Basketball

Due to the fact I was longwinded in the hockey and volleyball categories, the basketball players are getting screwed. Ergo, the **Bears** (11-5) travel to Saskatchewan this weekend to play the bulging Huskies in a battle of mythic proportions, or something equally heroic sounding. Balls will bounce and heads will roll at 8:15pm both Friday and Saturday.

And the poor **Pandas** (5-11), and other forms of allocation. They also have to travel to Saskatchewan, which is a clever combination of the words "Saskatchewan" and "Saskatoon" for those of you who missed that, and have to play the Huskies, although they play at 6:15pm both Friday and Saturday. Truly terrible times today.

### Me and Joel-i down by the schoolyard

Me: Say Joel, is this little blurb good enough for your impressive high moral standards?  
Joel: Of course it is not, good sir.  
Me: Well Joel, what if I were to take this keyboard and insert it gently into your rectum?  
Joel: You're stalling. Don't you even have a clue how you're going to end the Pep Rally this week?  
Me: Well, I thought I'd end it with a little ... salt in the eye! HA!  
Joel: My precious editing eyes! How will I ever watch my flames games now?  
Me: That'll learn you for questioning my creativity! Joel (unabashed sobbing) ... Why do I continue to let you treat me this way?

**SEXY DAVE BERRY**  
The Very Model of the Modern Major-General

## First place within grasp for volleyball Pandas

**DAVE BERRY**  
Sports Writer

With two weeks left in the regular season and the top three spots in Canada West still up for grabs, Panda's coach Laurie Eisler knows that it will take a team effort to get her squad past the quarterfinals and beyond.

"We're a really balanced team, so there isn't any one player [we rely on]," said Eisler with a chuckle. "We're like the New England Patriots [of football]. We're not the kind of team that can rely on any one player to do it for us; we don't have anyone that's going to be able to single-handedly win it."

With a top-three finish guaranteed, the Pandas are battling against the Calgary Dinos and the UBC Thunderbirds for first overall. Eisler is optimistic but cautious about her team's chances at the elusive top spot.

"Well, if we win all four of our last league matches, we'll finish first," said Eisler. That's easier said than done, however, especially with the sixth-ranked University of Winnipeg Wesmen in town this weekend.

"They were silver medalists last year at the CIS championships," said Eisler. "They have two middle players that they really like to get the ball to, and they also have two power hitters that are decent as well. We certainly have to pay a lot of attention to our defense for the middle attacker. You never want to be beaten by one player."

The one player Eisler is referring to is 6'2" Wesmen middle Andrea Charbonneau, who currently sits in the top five of Canada West in kills, blocks and points and recently pounded 33 kills into the Regina Cougars in two matches.

"She's really a good player, and we certainly don't want her to feel too comfortable in our gym," says Eisler of Charbonneau.

Regardless of the outcome of this weekend's games, Eisler continues to stress how much of



FILE PHOTO: WILTON

**THE 'GOOD SHIP PANDA' AT WORK** Pandas left side Chelsea Grimson and her teammates.

a team effort the Pandas will need through the final stretch drive and into the playoffs.

"We can't afford to have anyone jumping off the good ship Panda right now," Eisler pointed out. "We need everybody firing regardless of whether they're a starter or sub; no matter what

their role is on the team."

The Pandas play the Wesmen at 6:30pm Friday and again at 8pm on Saturday, both in the Main Gym. They return to action the following week as they finish off their season with two games against the UBC Thunderbirds.

## Hockey Pandas to face Regina Cougars at home

**JAKE TROUGHTON**  
Sports Writer

The top-ranked and undefeated Pandas hockey team will wrap up their regular season this weekend with their toughest challenge to date: a pair of games against their rivals, the third-ranked Regina Cougars.

Despite the numerous convincing wins the 18-0-0 Pandas have racked up during their perfect season, head coach Howie Draper says that he's still nervous going into the weekend. "Every game, I'm worried about losing," he said. "I always want our team to play up to their potential. You can lose a point against a team like

Regina if you're not mentally prepared to play the best that you can play."

Though the Pandas have thoroughly dominated their other Canada West competition, Regina has proven to be a more potent opponent than most. The Cougars registered a 2-1 loss in the last meeting between the teams, the closest that any team has come to beating Alberta in a season that has seen the Pandas score 113 goals while allowing only eight.

"[Regina's] a very good team," said Draper, "and I think it's likely that this weekend we'll see scores like that last game."

Draper was impressed by Regina's offensive performance in last weekend's sweep of

Manitoba. "They got a lot of rubber on the net, a lot of offensive pressure, which is tough to do because Manitoba is a very solid defensive team," he said. "Their strength has traditionally been their offensive punch, so I'm anticipating a pretty solid challenge this weekend."

Draper is confident that despite having faced much weaker competition in recent weeks, his team will be able to get up to this weekend's matches. "I think every weekend [in the second half] has gotten a little tougher," he said. "We've been fortunate that there's been a natural progression in the level of competition, and I think it bodes well now that we've got our best competition coming up this weekend."

He admits, though, that his team will need to work on aspects of their play that have gone untested in earlier games. "We've got to work this week in practice on taking care of our own end, because I think we'll be in our own end a little more than we've used to. So we'll have to work on breakouts and our D-zone to ensure that we're ready to play there."

In a conference where the Pandas and Cougars are clearly the top two teams, an intense rivalry has developed between the clubs. "There's some animosity that's developed between our teams," said Draper, "so I'd imagine it'll be a physical weekend and that tempers will flare a little bit."

The Pandas and Cougars, who have clinched first and second place respectively in the conference, are expected to meet again in the Canada West championship series. This weekend's games are thus an important chance for the teams to scout each other out, something Draper is stressing to his players. "We've got to be at our best to beat Regina, and it'll be a great platform for us to progress to the playoffs, should we do well."

The games on Friday and Saturday start at 7pm at Clare Drake Arena. The Pandas then have a bye week before hosting a semifinal playoff series the following weekend.



FILE PHOTO: ROCK WIRE

**ATTEMPTED CAN-OPENER** Pandas forward Danielle Bourgeois stickhandles through a check.



## Road-weary volleyball Bears return home

JOEL CHURY  
Sports Editor

After three consecutive weekends away from home, the Golden Bears volleyball team is returning to the familiar confines of the Main Gym and the unorthodox play of the fifth-ranked Winnipeg Wesmen.

"The Wesmen play the most different system of play of any of the teams that we have in our conference," said Bears head coach Terry Danyluk. "Normally, a team's middle blocker leads the setter in rotation, with Winnipeg, the power leads the setter. So they've got a few different things that come at you as far as their side-out formations in comparison to other teams we prepare for."

While Danyluk acknowledges the different style of game that Winnipeg will bring, adjustment to change has been the Bears forte all year. Throughout the entire season, the team has yet to lose both games in any weekend series, including last weekend on the west coast, when they followed up a five-set loss to UBC on Friday with a straight-set Bears victory on the Saturday. "We lost the first night after being up 2-0, and I think we just got complacent," said Danyluk. "We didn't finish when we had opportunities to finish, and Friday night we had the match with the most individual errors we've had all year. Saturday, we rebounded with the three-set victory, playing solidly from beginning to end."

As the season begins to give way to the playoffs, the Bears will have to fight through some nagging injuries that keep the entire roster on its toes. Starting libero Martin Mohrnyrd had to miss last weekend's action due to an ear infection, but should be ready to



SET IT TO ME, I'M ALREADY AIRBORNE The Bears play at home this weekend. FILE PHOTO: BCS TSE

return this weekend at home. Veteran right side Jeremy King (leg) and outside hitter Nicholas Cundy (abdomen) will continue to play through pain to close out the season. With the competitiveness of the final stretch of league play, the team will need all of its weapons to clinch first place and with it, home court advantage.

"Winnipeg still has a chance to

move up in the rankings, and we've still got the opportunity to close out in first, so both teams have a lot on the line this weekend," said Danyluk.

The series begins in the Main Gym on Friday at 8pm, and concludes on Saturday at 6:30pm before the Pandas match. The Bears will then get a second chance against UBC the following weekend to finish the season.



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## Point-counterpoint: Should the Oilers fire MacT?

No point in blaming the bench boss

Hells yes, fire his punk-ass right away

ROSS  
MOROZ



Point

DAVE  
BERRY



Counterpoint

Oiler fans are now two thirds of the way through an NHL season that, barring the miraculous crash of an airplane carrying every member of the Colorado Avalanche, and Vancouver Canucks, will see the Edmonton Oilers miss the playoffs entirely. As such, more than a few of you beer-soaked, mouth-breathing Neanderthals have begun calling for the head of Oiler's coach Craig MacTavish, stupidly subscribing to the naive belief that the only thing holding back the potentially red hot Oilers is their too-cool-for-a-helmet coach.

You drunken morons. Saying that the coaching of Craig MacTavish is the reason that the Oilers stink this year is like saying that the Titanic sank because everyone got into the lifeboats. The only way that getting rid of Craig MacTavish would improve the Oilers' postseason prospects is if Kevin Lowe could somehow trade MacT for Janne Niinimaa, Todd Marchant or any other of the quality players that the team has lost and not replaced since last season. Firing MacTavish will not make Adam Oates ten years younger, nor will his canning instantaneously inspire consistent Vladislav Tretiak-esque performances from the woeful Tommy Salo.

Another concern that fans should have is the question of who will replace MacT if he does get the boot. While it would be great to have the league's handsomest head coach, I doubt that current assistant coach Craig Simpson is any more competent than MacT.

I'm not holding up Craig MacTavish as a shining example of coaching excellence—in fact, I would tend to agree that the Oilers' might benefit from a coaching shakeup. But anyone who thinks that replacing Craig MacTavish will suddenly skyrocket the Oilers into Cup contention is obviously viewing the world through the translucent bottom of a half empty plastic cup that moments before bowed seven dollars worth of watered down Rexall Place "beer." For shame.

Ross, it's a good thing you're cute, because you are one dumb motherfucker. You can trace essentially every problem the Oilers have this season directly to one man: Craig Mac-fucking-Tavish.

Many people will say that a lot of fired coaches are simply victims of circumstance; that is, the coach is saddled with a horrible team that couldn't possibly win, whoever stood behind the bench. That said, it's why the Oilers are bad, not simply that they are bad, that should lead to MacT in the unemployment line.

Let's look at the most obvious problem, the powerplay. You could argue that the Oilers don't have a pure scorer, and that hurts their percentage, but if you'll recall last season, we had players like Mike Comrie and Anson Carter, and our powerplay still languished. Special teams, both powerplay and penalty killing rely on strategy, which is the domain of the coach. A bad strategy, which is clearly evident in our dump-and-chase, nobody-move, stand-by-the-boards retard parade we call a powerplay, will lead to shitty special teams.

Further, these Oilers have demonstrated that they can do things required to win games, things like scoring goals and playing solid defense. Sadly, they just can't do these things at the same time, and very often only do one a game, for about a period at a time. This is obviously the fault of a coach who couldn't motivate Tony Robbins with a vial of crack.

And of course, we could list MacTavish's endless stream of idiotic decisions. For instance, during their most recent game against Colorado, MacT decided to put Adam Oates, a man with over 1400 points, over 1000 of those assists, on a line with Georges Laraque and Ethan Moreau. Combined goal total of that line at the time of the game: six, all by Moreau. To rub salt in this brutal wound, we were DOWN BY ONE GOAL AT THE TIME! WHAT THE FUCK WERE YOU THINKING, YOU GUM-CHewing DINKFACE?! MY TOASTER COULD MAKE BETTER LINE COMBINATIONS!

Fire his no-helmet-wearing ass right now.

COME WATCH US  
play

   
[www.bears.ualberta.ca](http://www.bears.ualberta.ca)



**Pandas Hockey**  
Clare Drake

Friday, Feb. 6  
vs. Regina, 7:00 PM  
Saturday, Feb. 7  
vs. Regina, 7:00 PM

**Pandas Volleyball**  
Main Gym

Friday, Feb. 6  
vs. Winnipeg, 6:30 PM  
Saturday, Feb. 7  
vs. Winnipeg, 8:00 PM

**Bears Volleyball**  
Main Gym

Friday, Feb. 6  
vs. Winnipeg, 8:00 PM  
Saturday, Feb. 7  
vs. Winnipeg, 6:30 PM

maybe **Samuel L Jackson** was a student leader because ...

“

We all would like to think

that we're here for some greater purpose.

”

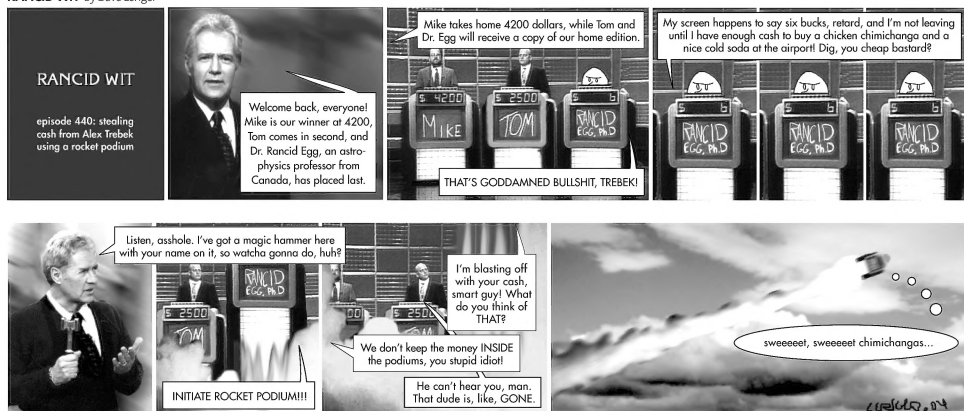
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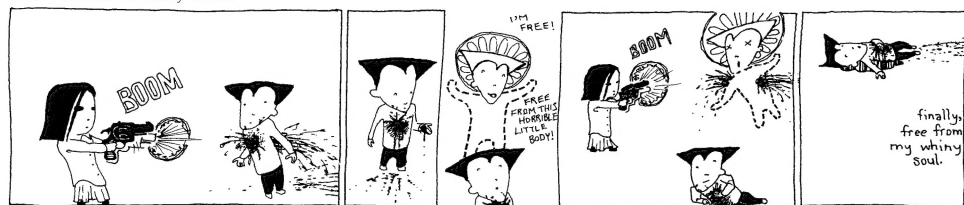
## RANCID WIT by Dave Leriger



## CARCINOMA by Lloyd Majeau



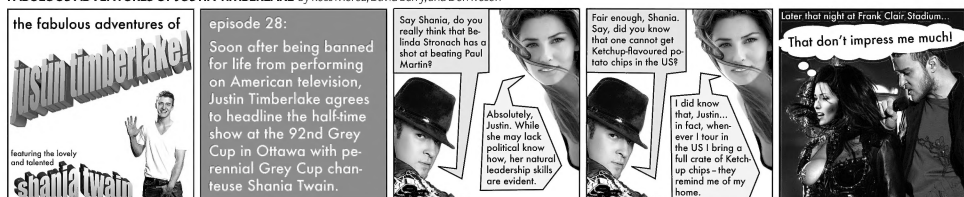
## WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS by Eric Uhlrich



## POLAR AND BROOKLYN by Alexis Labarda



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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AGAS Fruchtl Lecture Series presents Dr John

Edwards speaking on Language and Power. 5 Feb. 7pm - 8:30pm. Humanities Lt. info: www.asa.sualberta.ca/~ags/fruchtl.html.

## EMPLOYMENT - FULL TIME

The City of Edmonton Community Services, Neighborhood Social and Recreation Services is currently recruiting for summer program positions for playgrounds, daycamps, youth programs, the Heritage Amphitheater, and River Valley programs. We are looking for coordinators, leaders, junior leaders, wading pool supervisors, and skateboard park instructors. The wages range from \$8 to \$19 depending on training, experience, and specialized skills. Visit www.edmonton.ca for more information on the positions, deadlines, and how to apply.

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## THREE LINES FOR A TOONIE

Happy Birthday, Princess Kimmy! -Muffin. Go out and get "Bring it on Again" - now available on DVD and VHS. Recommended by 2 out of 3 info-savvy staff members. It's a high-energy, full-throttle, emotional-spin cycle - with CHER LEADNG! What are you still doing reading this? Go and get your copy - NOW! Shane (from the land down under), do you have a mate?

## ASTRONOMY WATCH

The trust words I've ever heard: "Love doesn't last, but science is forever. Get your priorities straight." Thanks to a prof I had last semester for that pearl of wisdom. But seriously folks, enough about me, I don't want to get you chumped down with stories of my unending woe. So onwards and upwards to better things, like learning about astronomy!

So, this past Sunday marked the one-year anniversary of the Columbia accident. A memorial ceremony was held at the Kennedy Space Centre, with an attendance of a few hundred. Similar memorials were held in Kari, India to commemorate Indian astronaut Kalpana Chawla who died in the accident, and in Nahaia, Israel to remember Ilan Ramon, the first Israeli astronaut.

If it clears up at all you'll be able to see some neat stuff in the night sky this week. Tonight we have a full moon, so feel free to go nuts, and on Saturday the moon will be shining to the right of bright Jupiter. And remember kids, don't drink and drive.

Karl Kovacs sets the stage for the cosmos, and invites you up to the Campus Observatory above the physics building every Thursday evening at 8pm.



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426-2355

12302 Stony Plain Rd.

488-6622

Edmonton City Centre

10200 - 102 Ave.

421-4540

## NORTH

Costco North

993-5188

12924 - 97 St.

473-2355

## EAST

Capitol Mall

(outside entrance by Safeway)

450-6880

6558 28 Ave.

440-2812

6839 - 83 St. (Ange Rd.)

465-5271

## SOUTH

6031 - 103 St.

438-2355

9128 - 51 Ave.

438-5114

South Edmonton Common

485-9812

South Edmonton Common

(inside Superstore)

701-3355

Southgate Centre

434-5620

Costco South

908-4544

9261 - 34 Ave.

702-6001

Hub Mall

9004 - 112 St.

970-3068

## WEST

West Edmonton Mall Phase II

(by skating rink)

413-9855

West Edmonton Mall Phase III

(by London Drive)

443-3022

10013 - 170 St.

408-8017

10608 - 170 St.

489-2255

Costco West

907-0320

## LEIDIC

6104 - 50 St.

956-0866

## SHERWOOD PARK

993 Fir St.

417-2355

## ST. ALBERT

Inglewood Town Centre

419-2355

## ROGERS WIRELESS

## EDMONTON

Kingsway Gardens Mall

471-3807

Londonderry Mall

476-3266

Northern Mall

475-2724

Bonnie Doon Mall

483-0664

Millwoods Town Centre

444-1775

## SHERWOOD PARK

Sherwood Park Mall

416-1775

## ST. ALBERT

St. Albert Centre

418-1681

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